

one specimen which I could not identify from my ancient copy of "South". The 1961 edition was subsequently studied and the nearest I could find, judging from the shape of the wings and some of the markings, was the illustration of the Eversmann's Rustic (now *Ochropleura fennica*). I dismissed this almost immediately, especially as a friend suggested that it could be a variety of the Turnip. I was not convinced by this and placed the specimen in a drawer with the other Noctuids.

In March 1978, I was able to show the above specimen to Mrs. Joan Nicklin from the Rothamsted Insect Survey. She took the specimen back to Rothamsted where she identified it as *Ochropleura fennica*. This was later confirmed by the Department of Entomology at the British Museum. Mrs. Nicklin has taken the trouble of finding the relevant references to *O. fennica* for me and it would appear that the above specimen was in fact either the *second* or the *third* to be caught in this country.

The other records are as follows:— 1850: Derbyshire (Doubleday— in South 1961). "Mid August", 1972: Shepper-ton, Middlesex (cf. Durden, *Ent. Gaz.*, 25: 51). 20th August, 1977: Aberdeen (cf. Marsden & Young, *Ent. Rec.*, 90: 84).

I would like to express my thanks to Mrs. Nicklin, who has obviously gone to a lot of trouble to confirm the identity of this specimen, and to the "experts" at the Natural History Museum in London. It will, of course, be donated to the National Collection in due course. — M. E. MARCHANT, 51 Boundary Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

DECORATIVE ART IN BUTTERFLIES. — It is I think generally assumed that the production of butterflies and their manufacture into decorative articles is a post-war phenomenon, largely centred in Taiwan. Although the manufacture of *Morpho* wings into jewellery came about in mid-Victorian days, this is a different class of business altogether. The present-day Taiwanese method of manufacture is to cut off the wings from the body of the butterfly and then to press them between plastic laminates with a printed paper body replacing the real one. Specimens with the wings glued to the paper body are also sold loose, as are the real bodies which are in demand for the extraction of hormones by chemists and professional entomologists for research purposes.

Contrary to general belief, however, this Taiwanese method of replacing the real body with a paper one is nothing new. In essentials the method was invented by George Edwards well over two centuries ago. I recently came across the method described by him in what is probably his rarest book, "Essays upon Natural History, and other Miscellaneous Subjects", London, printed for J. Robson, M,DCC,LXX. The essay in question is worth quoting in full and bears the title "A Receipt for taking the Figures of Butterflies on thin gummed paper".

"Take Butterflies, or field Moths, either those caught abroad, or such as are taken in Caterpillars, and nursed in

the house till they be Flies, clip off their wings very close to their bodies, and lay them on clean paper, in the form of a Butterfly when flying, then have ready prepared gum Arabic, that hath been some time dissolved in water, and is pretty thick; it you put a drop of Ox gall into a spoonful of this, it will be better for the use; temper them well with your finger, and spread a little of it on a piece of thin white paper, big enough to take both sides of your Fly; when it begins to be clammy under your finger the paper is in proper order to take the feathers from the wings of the Fly; then lay the gummed side on the wings, and it will take them up; then double your paper so as to have all the wings between the paper; then lay it on a table, pressing it close with your fingers; and you may rub it gently with some smooth hard thing; then open the paper, and take out the wings, which will come forth transparent. The down of the upper and under side of the wings, sticking to the gummed paper, form a just likeness of both sides of the wings in their natural shapes and colours.

"The nicety of taking off Flies depends on a just degree of moisture of the gummed paper; for if it be too wet, all will be blotted and confused; and if too dry, your paper will stick so fast together, that it will be torn in separation. When you have opened your gummed papers, and they are dry, you must draw the bodies from the natural ones, and paint them in water-colours. You must take a paper that will bear ink very well for this use; for a sinking paper will separate with the wet, and spoil all." — B. O. C. GARDINER, A.R.C. Unit of Invertebrate Chemistry and Physiology, Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

COLEOPHORA MURINIPENNELLA DUPONCHEL (LEP.: COLEOPHORIDAE) BRED. — I am not aware of any previous account of the breeding of this species, I have never met anyone who had experience of the larva, and it seems that few, if any, of the old British entomologists knew the larval case. The illustration of a seed-husk case in Stainton (*Natural History of the Tineina*, 5, plt. 10, fig. 1c) stated to be that of *Coleophora murinipennella* is clearly erroneous, being apparently that of *C. taeniipennella* H.-S. The case of *C. murinipennella* is correctly figured in Toll (1962, *Materialien zur Kenntnis der palaarktischen Arten der Familie Coleophoridae*, plt. 3S, fig. 40).

On 12th May, 1973, I encountered the imagines of *C. murinipennella* in plenty on Mitcham Common (Surrey), but being misled by Stainton's figure, looked in vain for a seed-husk case among the *Luzula campestris* which grows there in abundance. I realised later that the cases I had passed over as being those of *C. alticolella* Z. (albeit on an unusual food-plant) were in fact those of *murinipennella*, which occur there numerously on the seed heads of *L. campestris* from about mid-June. On 27th July, 1975, some 35 cases I collected there from seed heads were placed outdoors in a cloth bag hung